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Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

(Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 4-8 December 1989)

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PART ONE

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 5 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC for 1988-1989, including action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC

Information

1. The Committee endorsed the secretariat's proposal to pursue, as a major activity, its efforts to maintain its information system up-to-date and accessible to member countries and to provide related training. It was noted that a promotional programme would be implemented to create greater awareness of services available.

Statistical Data Bank and related services

2. The Committee noted the secretariat's renewed request for increased support by governments through the provision and regular up-dating of data, as well as its intention to work more closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to redesign the Agricultural Statistics document in order to provide more relevant and useful information to users; seek the strengthening of links between the social and economic aspects of development planning; provide increased statistical inputs to ECLAC Headquarters' economic surveys; establish a science and technology database, after work towards to decide what indicators to collect and to rationalize definitions; and assist the governments in preparing their 1990 population censuses.

3. It was proposed that the useful work of the recent Colloquium on Statistics and the New Technologies should be extended to the organization of workshops on subjects such as the environment, the informal sector, tourism, national household survey capabilities and a harmonized system of data collection in these areas.

Economic survey of Caribbean countries

4. The Committee noted that the secretariat would continue to review economic performance on an annual basis, at the same time producing documents

on specific sectors covering longer periods of about 10 years, and that such analysis would form the basis of future presentations on lessons derived from the 1980s and proposals for the forthcoming decade.

International trade and development finance

5. The Committee noted the secretariat' intention to begin work to provide information on Official Development Assistance, and requested it to collaborate to a greater extent in the initiatives of other agencies with respect to its reporting on international trade. It was proposed that the secretariat might base its analysis on the national data published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its "Annual Development Report", but from a regional viewpoint.

6. The Committee approved the secretariat's proposal to record the "Trade Procedures Guide" on diskette --to be transmitted for up-dating by the governments, which should also inform the secretariat of any subsequent changes in the information-- and to make the database available to users by remote access.

7. The Committee noted the offer made by the Netherlands Antilles delegation of the services of Curaçao Inc., and the SETEL telecommunications resource centre based in Curaçao for exploring alternatives to the region's present communications infrastructure, in order to assist the secretariat and member countries in seeking ways of improving trade possibilities in the region and in the Latin American and European markets.

8. It was noted that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) offered training programmes in maritime administration and related fields at the World Maritime Training Centre in Sweden, in maritime law in Malta and in other maritime operations in Italy.

Demography

9. The Committee noted that the secretariat would place emphasis on informing the governments about techniques and methods for incorporating population factors in development planning and for strengthening institutional mechanisms for implementing social and economic programmes, as well as on developing related information, education and communication programmes.

10. It was also noted that the secretariat would follow-up an initiative by Cuba's Demographic Training Centre to explore the possibility of providing courses for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Natural resources

11. Several delegations expressed their countries' interest in being included in the project on incorporation of socio-cultural and environmental management issues in tourism. It was noted that from 1990 the services of a

staff member with expertise in tourism would be available at the International Labor Office (ILO) in Port of Spain.

12. With respect to the project on Regional Sewage Disposal Studies, the Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Planning Committee comprising the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and ECLAC should continue to exist and should focus on co-operation with the governments in evaluating their sewage disposal capability, developing national sector plans and mobilizing external resources for project development.

Science and technology

13. The secretariat was requested to place special emphasis on providing increased technology to small and medium-sized farmers and stimulating trade in processed and semi-processed commodities.

Social sector

14. The Committee noted that member countries should review their language needs related to trade, tourism and other economic, social and cultural activities, the new emphasis of the Removal of Language Barriers programme being on language planning at the national level to permit effective assessment of needs linked to economic exigencies. It was agreed that steps would be taken to include the Haitian Ministry of Education in the programme.

15. With respect to the problems of data availability and of organization and interpretation of data on the social impact of structural adjustment, it was proposed that as an interim measure, the secretariat should convene an inter-agency meeting with a special focus on comparison of the data available to the governments.

16. The Committee noted the secretariat's intention --its Women in Development (WID) Unit having established a computerized database on activities in the informal sector (largely involving women)-- to develop programmes of assistance, such as the formation of co-operatives, appropriate language training and the introduction of legislation to assist the informal traders, possibly in collaboration with ILO. It was noted that the WID advisers now attached to the offices of ILO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), would be pleased to co-operate with the secretariat.

17. It was agreed that a special mission would be carried out to collect data on regional experiences, research and documentation on the integration of women in economic and social development.

18. It was suggested that the secretariat might assist the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in preparing reports required in the context of their ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

CDCC/CARICOM co-operation

19. The Committee took note of the Port of Spain Accord on the Management and Conservation of the Caribbean Environment issued by the First CARICOM Ministerial Conference on the Environment in June 1989, which was circulated for the attention of participants.

20. It was proposed that arrangements for consultations between the two secretariats on their respective work programmes, in advance of their preparation, could be revived and that co-operation at the level of programme managers would be useful.

21. The Committee agreed on the need to identify a mechanism to foster greater co-operation between the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) and the CARICOM Secretariat, it being understood, however, that similar activities by both did not constitute duplication of efforts as far as the CDCC members not belonging to CARICOM were concerned. It was suggested that the recently established Independent West Indian Commission might be able to address this issue.

Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC

22. The secretariat was urged to submit a substantive report to the Committee, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the previous session, on the particular needs of small island developing countries.

23. The Committee endorsed the suggestion that the secretariat convene a preparatory meeting prior to the United Nations meeting on small island developing countries, scheduled for May 1990.

24. The secretariat was requested to provide more substantive information and clearer guidance on the issue of the environment and harmful waste and to seek access to donor resources to accelerate achievement of development goals in this respect.

25. The secretariat was invited to co-ordinate the views and representation of member governments in preparation for meetings of specialized agencies.

26. The Committee noted that a meeting was being organized by ILO in 1990, at which the question of tripartite machinery for economic development would be discussed.

Agenda Item 6 - Role and functioning of CDCC

27. The Committee accepted the proposal made by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Guyana and supported by other delegates, in which the secretariat was requested to submit an overview report to the Committee on the mandates it had received, those fulfilled, activities carried out and expenditure incurred in fulfilment of those mandates, as well as activities not carried out and the reasons therefor.

28. The need was recognized for reflection on how the CDCC could better discharge its mandate of assisting the governments to achieve major national goals and for correction of the communication problem which seemed to exist, whereby CDCC focal points in the member countries were often unaware of the programmes being undertaken by the secretariat in collaboration with relevant [illegible]ies. The secretariat was urged to publicize its efforts more effectively.

29. The Committee was informed that implementation of many of the proposals made at the eleventh session by the head of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation was beyond the competence of the secretariat and the issues involved needed to be resolved through the relevant organs of the United Nations.

30. The secretariat was urged to provide documentation for the upcoming meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the role and functioning of the CDCC, in fulfilment of previous requests, and to present regular reports on its staffing, the activities in which staff members were engaged and the source of their remuneration.

31. The secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant competent organizations, is to convene each year one inter-organizational meeting immediately before and another shortly after the session of the CDCC, to ascertain and improve the functional co-operation between the CDCC and regional and international organizations and other donor agencies.

Agenda Items 7 to 9 - Work programme of the CDCC for the first period of the 1990-1991 biennium; Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the 1992-1993 biennium; United Nations medium-term plan (1992-1997)

32. The Committee noted the secretariat's presentation of the CDCC programme and its clarification that while the programme had already been approved by the Committee and funded, scope existed for priorities to be adjusted as circumstances changed. The secretariat agreed to incorporate additional activities proposed by the delegates and issue an appropriate corrigendum.

33. The Committee requested the secretariat to present its future work programmes in a new format, so as to identify the order of priorities in relation to budgetary allocations, assign funding to the various elements and indicate what portion of funds would be allocated to items such as expert costs and travel.

34. The secretariat was also asked to prepare a report, in preparation for the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee, on projects for the biennium, indicating the various sources of their funding.

Agenda Item 10 - Establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

35. It was noted that a decision on the question of a permanent secretariat for CCST was to be taken at the next plenary session of the Council. It was agreed that in the meantime, as sufficient funding was not available to cover the provision of such facilities, the CCST should continue to serviced by the CDCC secretariat.

Agenda Item 11 - Other business

36. The secretariat was asked to collaborate in other initiatives being taken within the United Nations system and by regional organizations in the area of disaster-preparedness in general and, in particular, in formulating an action plan for the countries affected by Hurricane Hugo.

Agenda Item 12 - Place and date of CDCC XIII

37. The secretariat was requested to enter into consultations with member governments with a view to setting the place and date of the thirteenth session of the CDCC.

Agenda Item 13 - Consideration and adoption of the report

38. In adopting its report, the Committee requested the secretariat to prepare the final version and dispatch it to member countries for comment within 30 days.

PART TWO

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

39. The twelfth session of the CDCC was held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, at the technical level from 4 to 6 December 1989 and at the ministerial level on 7 and 8 December 1989.

Attendance */

40. Representatives of the following member countries of the Committee attended the session: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Participating associate members were Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States Virgin Islands.

41. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by officials of its Departments for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship (UN/DSPQRCDT) and Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD), respectively.

42. Representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system attended the session: UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF.

43. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: ILO, IMO and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

44. The CARICOM Secretariat was represented at the session.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

45. Opening statements were made by the outgoing Chairman, Dr. Carlyle Corbin, Representative for External Affairs in the Office of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands;**/ Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary

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*/ See annex I.
**/ See annex II.

of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);*/ and the incoming Chairman of the session, Prime Minister Maria Liberia-Peters of the Netherlands Antilles.**/ These statements are reproduced in full in annexes to this report.

Agenda Item 2 - Election of Officers

46. The following Officers were elected by consensus at the meeting of the Heads of Delegations held prior to the opening of the session:

Chairman:	Netherlands Antilles (Lucita Moenir Alam)
First Vice-Chairman:	Trinidad and Tobago (Louis A. Wiltshire)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Cuba (Ramiro Leon Torras)
Rapporteur:	Antigua and Barbuda (Lionel A. Hurst)

47. In accordance with established practice, the Officers of the part of the session held at the ministerial level were representatives of the same countries as the Officers of the session at the technical level, as follows:

Chairman:	Netherlands Antilles (Maria Liberia-Peters)
First Vice-Chairman:	Trinidad and Tobago (Eden Arthur Shand)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Cuba (Raul Taladrid Suarez)
Rapporteur:	Antigua and Barbuda (Lionel A. Hurst)

Agenda Item 3 - Addresses

48. Following the formal opening ceremony, two other delegates made statements. Observing that the CDCC member countries shared the same economic and political boundaries, a comparable history and common future prospects, the Prime Minister of Aruba stated that events in any of the Caribbean countries could affect the entire region and urged Caribbean leaders to exercise their responsibility of exploring new avenues of co-operation. He stressed the need for interaction aimed at the development of new ideas and determination of an alternative course of action to achieve the desired goals. There was a need for the peoples of the Caribbean to learn new, competitive skills and broaden their knowledge base in order to surmount the present limiting circumstances.

49. Citing Aruba's experience in dealing with the effect of the vagaries of international marketing on the economy by re-directing economic policy, he asserted that for the Caribbean peoples there were many opportunities for advancement, which they should learn to seek out and be ready to utilize. Such readiness, which would require co-operation as offered by the CDCC, could lead the region to overcome the constraints of small size through the pooling of resources, thus creating a wider market and greater trading opportunities. Co-operation of this nature, established under workable

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*/ See annex III.
**/ See annex IV.

conditions, could reduce the region's vulnerability and increase the effectiveness of the Caribbean countries in international negotiations.

50. He urged member countries to join with Aruba at a conference on money laundering, to be hosted by his government during the second quarter of 1990.

51. The representative of Cuba observed that concerted action was necessary in order to enable the Caribbean, as well as other developing countries, to confront the global economic crisis, inflation, the insoluble external debt, hunger and poverty. Commenting that underdevelopment was an imposition on the majority of the countries of the planet by the exploitatory powers, he reminded the meeting of the observation, made by the head of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation at the eleventh session, that the development of co-operation between the members --and particularly between CARICOM and non-CARICOM countries-- had always been and continued to be one of the main objectives of CDCC.

52. He recalled resolution 12(VII) on technical and economic co-operation within the framework of CDCC and suggested that a new timetable of activities should be drawn up to undertake the action requested of the secretariat and the governments, so as to permit complementarity with resolution 20(IX) on future action of CDCC, with particular reference to its paragraph 4. He recommended that the Director of the Subregional Headquarters should increase contacts with CARICOM, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar-Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA), with a view to identifying actions with the Caribbean countries that would allow for the implementation of small projects designed to satisfy the priorities of CDCC member countries, as well as exploring with developing countries the possibility of implementing bilateral and multilateral projects in areas of common interest.

53. He expressed Cuba's support for the continued use by CCST of the facilities of the CDCC secretariat, as long as there were insufficient funds to support its having its own secretariat.

54. The Cuban delegate expressed the view that the CDCC secretariat should increase its contacts with member countries, generate initiatives that could be implemented, and carry out the necessary co-ordination with United Nations agencies and potential donor countries. Such co-ordination could possibly come about through a meeting, prior to CDCC sessions, between member countries and the respective agencies to discuss the best way to implement subregional projects, or projects shared by two or more countries.

55. A representative of the secretariat made a presentation entitled "Sustained Development in the Nineties", summarizing economic performance in the 1980s, abstracting lessons learned during the decade and making proposals for policies which might go towards achieving sustained development in the decade of the 1990s. Tracing the economic performance of the CDCC member countries, he highlighted the wide variance in economic growth rates due to the changing fortunes of regional export products on the world markets, the mix of these products in the export basket of each country and the domestic policies pursued by each nation. He expressed concern at the

current performance of the major export earners, with sugar in decline, bananas depending on a protected market, manufacturing industry experiencing difficulty in making the transition from import substitution to export orientation, and minerals suffering because of a continuous decline in the terms of trade and wide fluctuations in earnings. Tourism provided the major engine of growth in the region over the decade, although low productivity and a lack of flexibility to take advantage of changing market conditions remained sources of concern.

56. Countries suffering economic contraction had also started to show a deterioration in social indicators. This reflected the fact that declining income was impacting unfavourably on quality of life in areas such as education, health and nutrition. Unemployment rates were increasing at a time when the capacity of the governments to provide a social safety net for the neediest was being reduced. There were also signs that the environment was being degraded at a faster rate than that at which it was capable of correcting itself, so that an environmental deficit was being incurred.

57. For sustained development in the 1990s, it would be necessary to focus, in the secretariat's view, on three main elements. Emphasis would need to be placed on increasing the efficiency and productivity of the economies, primarily by upgrading skills and improving work attitudes, as well as by raising the rate of investment. Stress would also be required on raising the level of social cohesiveness by ensuring the ability of all persons to contribute to and benefit from economic activities; for those unable to do so in the short run, however, a basic social safety net should be provided. Likewise, policies that would be environmentally sustainable in the long run should be developed.

58. In the ensuing discussions, delegations raised questions and commented on issues such as the relationship between pollution and development, the need to develop further the analysis on the services sector, the relationship between the external debt and development, investment, capital flight and human resource development.

Agenda Item 4 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work */

59. The agenda adopted for the twelfth session of CDCC was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Addresses
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

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*/ See the list of documents contained in annex V to this report.

5. Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC for 1988-1989, including action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC

6. Role and functioning of CDCC (resolution 26(XI)):

   a) Reports of the Monitoring Committee
   b) Report of the secretariat

7. Work programme of the CDCC for the first period of the 1990-1991 biennium

8. Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1992-1993 biennium

9. United Nations Medium-Term Plan (1992-1997)

10. Establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology

11. Other business

12. Place and date of CDCC XIII

13. Consideration and adoption of the report.

60. The Committee agreed that the issue of small island developing countries would be dealt with under item 5 and that items 7 to 10 would be considered together.

61. The secretariat was asked to provide a list of the documents being submitted to the session. It was also urged to send out documentation prepared for future meetings in time to reach the governments at least the stipulated six weeks in advance. That would assist the relevant national authorities in gathering inputs from the various specialized ministries and thus help them to participate more effectively in discussion of the work programme. One delegate expressed the view that the delay in sending out documents demonstrated a lack of coherent planning within the secretariat.

Agenda Item 13 - Consideration and adoption of the report

62. The Committee considered and adopted the report contained in Part Three of this document and the resolutions contained in Part Four. The secretariat was requested to finalize the report and forward it to member countries for their comments within 30 days.

PART THREE

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Agenda Item 5 - Implementation of the work programme of the CDCC for 1988-1989, including action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for the CDCC

Information

63. In introducing the work programme as reported in document LC/CAR/G.281, the secretariat indicated that continuing to supply various information, documentation and related services to a wide user community, as well as providing training to member countries and support for technical co-operation among them in these fields, represented a major focus. Links were being maintained with UNESCO and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in the use of the CDS/ISIS system in CDCC member countries. A major objective of the Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC) in Port of Spain was to keep the information system as up-to-date as possible to meet the needs of the member countries, and to provide training to them. A demonstration of the on-line remote access capability would be provided during the meeting to show how data from the CDC could be accessed via computer and telecommunications. The secretariat also indicated that it was seeking to work more closely with United Nations agencies and other organizations involved in economic and social development in the region, with a view to having their databases put on line and made accessible through the CDC's facilities. As part of this exercise, it intended to develop a promotional programme to advise users of the services available to them. In this regard, a series of relevant documents would be put on display as reference material during the session.

64. The Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU) was established to promote the use and understanding of patent information in the development process, and links had been established between PIDU and the CCST in that respect. Support for PIDU was being provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and IDRC, the latter furnishing financial assistance, as well as facilities for searching patent databases. The secretariat was making efforts to establish closer linkages between PIDU and the comprehensive network embracing national patent officers.

65. A delegate expressed the view that information was one of the areas of excellence of CDCC and looked forward to a fuller report from the Co-ordinator on this subject. He said there should be a link between the work done and that proposed in relation to CDS/ISIS training and the Selected Dissemination of Information (SDI) referred to in document LC/CAR/G.288. He noted the reference to co-ordination among the various information systems, but asked for a fuller explanation and up-date on the latest activities in this area.

66. The secretariat responded that a proposal for SDI training in CDS/ISIS had been submitted to UNESCO, but in the interim, it had used its own resources to do such training and the programme was continuing on a limited scale. It was noted that a report on the activities of the Caribbean Consultative Committee on Regional Information Systems (CCCRIS) had been provided to the eleventh session. The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for early 1990, but the Committee had meanwhile been working on guidelines for regional information systems, promotion of the use of such systems and the use of information in the region generally. Two proposals for funding had been submitted to IDRC, but no response had so far been received.

67. A delegate questioned whether, in the light of the existence of various databases accessible by computer, SDI was now superfluous and whether microfilming was not now out-dated technology. The secretariat responded that the use of scanners, electronic mail and full-text databases would ultimately replace the existing technology, but the advanced technologies were not currently widely available in all member countries.

68. In response to an enquiry about the institutional relationship between CARICOM and CDCC on CCCRIS and therefore the representation of interests of non-CARICOM countries, the secretariat stated that CDCC members were represented through their respective regional networks and not primarily at the national level.

Statistical Data Bank and related services

69. The secretariat indicated that the Statistical Data Bank provided a service for internal use, as well as for the broader user community. In outlining the contents of the "Selected Statistical Indicators" and "Agricultural Statistics" documents, the secretariat renewed its request to governments for increased support through the provision of data and stated its intention to work more closely with the FAO in redesigning the latter document in order to provide more relevant and useful information to users.

70. The meeting was informed that the secretariat would focus on providing assistance with respect to the 1990 round of population censuses. Its services had been offered to governments in this connection.

71. The secretariat stated that development of the Retrieval of Small-area Data by Microcomputer (REDATAM) programme could prove beneficial to member countries' economic and social development planning, following the upcoming census activities. A pilot project had been conducted in Saint Lucia and

other English-speaking countries and had shown that there was interest in adopting the programme.

72. Attempts were being made by the secretariat to strengthen the links between the social and economic aspects of development planning and provide increased statistical inputs to the economic surveys prepared by ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, so as to better reflect the Caribbean perspective within these regional studies.

73. The view was expressed that the Colloquium recently conducted in Port of Spain with the objective of keeping countries up-to-date on the development of new technologies related to statistical databases and on-line access to them had been useful and that similar activities should be organized in fields such as environment, the informal sector, tourism, national household survey capabilities and the development of a harmonized system for the collection of data in these areas.

74. It was noted that member countries received requests for data on science and technology which they were unable to provide. There was therefore a need for a relevant database to be established. Prior work was, however, necessary to decide what indicators to collect and to rationalize definitions so as to enable consistent cross-country comparisons. The UNESCO representative indicated that his organization had taken steps to redress this deficiency through a survey, the results of which would be included in the CDCC database.

75. The secretariat stressed the desirability of expanding the social database, difficult though that might be, so as to provide a better picture of relevant developments in the region.

Economic survey of Caribbean countries

76. Drawing the meeting's attention to two documents entitled, respectively, "The Impact of External Sector Developments on Caribbean Economic Performance, 1983-1988" (LC/CAR/G.278) and "A Brief Overview of Economic Activities of Caribbean Countries, 1988" (LC/CAR/G.279), the secretariat indicated that it would continue to review economic performance on an annual basis, at the same time producing documents in specific sectors covering a longer period of perhaps 10 years.

77. Citing the high quality of analysis and the focus on Caribbean problems in these publications, a delegate observed that they complemented the paper on "Selected Statistical Indicators".

78. The secretariat indicated that collaboration with other organizations, such as CARICOM, and with the governments had resulted in substantial output on economic and social planning. It had also collaborated closely with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) to prepare a meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, which had provided a forum for CDCC countries to create linkages with counterparts in Latin America, and with the Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL) to promote greater trade relations between the Caribbean and Latin America.

79. A delegate drew attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the report on co-operation between CARICOM and non-CARICOM countries (LC/CAR/G.269) and cited the activities outlined therein as a fine example of CDCC's role in projecting the work of the secretariat in the wider Caribbean. Recognizing the objective of providing as wide a coverage as possible in that report, he observed that in document LC/CAR/G.278, information on some countries was incomplete in some of the tables. In response to his query as to whether resource difficulties had militated against the acquisition of data and if so, what measures were being taken to remove those constraints, the secretariat reaffirmed its genuine desire to widen the scope of coverage and reiterated its request for data from member countries.

80. The Committee noted that in the interest of continuity, the analysis would form the basis of further presentations on lessons derived from the 1980s and proposals for the coming decade.

International trade and development finance

81. The secretariat presented a report on international trade and development finance activities, highlighting the internal collaboration that had gone into the preparation of the document. Comments from the governments had been sought in order to make the report as meaningful as possible. Delegates expressed concern that the reporting on this item was sparse, especially when compared with that provided at the eleventh session. They wished to see greater activity in this area reflected in the work of the secretariat. The observation was made that there were several centres of excellence in the region on the subject of trade. Interest was expressed in the Uruguay Round, particularly in the area of services. A national study was being undertaken with the co-operation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Government of France; while no information on this study had been received from the CDCC secretariat, documentation had been forthcoming from SELA and ECLAC, Santiago.

82. The secretariat stated that it did not possess great capability in development finance, but preliminary studies were underway towards resolving the difficulty. It outlined its activities related to broadening its international trade database, citing the several areas in which related work was being done. A staff member with expertise in international trade had been recruited on a temporary basis --with the prospect of extending this arrangement-- to replace the Trade Officer, permanently recruited previously, who had gone to Namibia for a period. Jamaica had also assisted by providing information from its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. The secretariat also cited its collaboration with UNCTAD and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (UNCTC) on the question of trade in services. This collaboration had provided the basis to permit the Caribbean countries to access data on international trade and to be informed on the Uruguay Round. Work on the development of activities in this area had also been initiated with the CARICOM secretariat.

83. In response to a query, the secretariat indicated its intention of commencing work towards providing information on Official Development Assistance.

84. The ILO representative suggested that the secretariat might wish to base its analysis on the data contained in UNDP's "Annual Development Report", covering all sources (bilateral and multilateral) of development assistance to the Caribbean countries. He cautioned, however, that such data were national and recommended that the secretariat should attempt regional analysis.

85. He reported on progress made with respect to development of co-operatives, based on putting productive co-operatives in the Caribbean in direct contact with marketing co-operatives in Western Europe. The European Economic Community (EEC) had already allocated funds for assistance in this area.

86. The Committee approved the secretariat's proposal to place the "Trade Procedures Guide" on diskette, to be transmitted to the governments for updating. The secretariat recommended that it should also be informed of any subsequent changes in the information and proposed to ensure remote access to the database. The importance of the Guide as an instrument for breaking down barriers to trade, particularly between the English-speaking Caribbean and Latin America, as well as the need for its timely and continuous up-dating, were stressed.

Transport

87. The secretariat informed the meeting that due to the lack of an incumbent in the post covering the transport sector, this element of the work programme was being carried out by the Transport Division in ECLAC, Santiago. Support had been provided through the preparation of documents on maritime transport in the region, as well as participation in the Trainmar Programme implemented by UNCTAD with financing from the Government of France.

88. The IMO representative informed the meeting of his organization's training programmes, including M.Sc. courses in maritime administration and related fields at the World Maritime Training Centre in Sweden, training in maritime law in Malta and shorter courses in other maritime operations in Italy. He added that a maritime training course, for which IMO had been providing examination services, was in operation in Jamaica.

89. Emphasizing the importance of maritime and air transport for improvement in trade and economic growth, the Netherlands Antilles delegation offered its country's expertise and its transport and communications infrastructure to assist other CDCC member countries to improve trade possibilities in the region and entry into the Latin American and European markets.

Agriculture

90. The secretariat reported that while no activities specifically in the agriculture sector had been programmed, an agriculture component had been incorporated into activities such as information and documentation, statistics and science and technology. It had also collaborated closely with

international and regional organizations in various activities related to the sector.

Demography

91. The Committee was informed that emphasis had been placed on the implementation of programmes --most of them with the assistance of UNFPA-- aimed at developing and strengthening national and regional capacities for the integration of population into development planning and for population policy formulation and implementation, through the adoption of a multi-faceted approach. Data-generation and evaluation were being accomplished through establishment of a socio-economic data bank and population information system; preparation of inter-censal and post-censal estimates; and development of a regional digest of demographic and social statistics. Training to develop skills in understanding population/development interrelations had been provided through two one-week national training programmes on applications of microcomputers to socio-demographic planning; collaboration with CARICOM and PAHO in the development of a system for the collection and analysis of vital statistics; and the preparation of a project involving a training workshop on demography for Suriname. Assistance was being provided to the Governments of Haiti, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos in the formulation of population policies. Others were receiving assistance in the implementation of such policies through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms --for example, population councils and planning units. Given the limited knowledge among governments of population/development integration and planning, work had begun on the development of information, education and communication programmes and of a population reference library which would form part of ECLAC's Caribbean Information System for Economic and Social Planning (CARISPLAN) activities. Two regional research projects concerned with population/development interrelations and mortality patterns, respectively, had been implemented; a study on population projections for the period 1980-2015 for nine countries was nearing completion; and preparatory activities for a migration study for social and economic sector planning had begun.

92. The Committee was informed of discussions held between the office of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) in Costa Rica and Cuba's Demographic Training Centre regarding the conduct of courses, currently being offered in Spanish, for the English-speaking countries. The secretariat indicated that it had been unaware of those discussions, but welcomed the contribution from the Government of Cuba and agreed to ensure follow-up.

93. The secretariat was commended for the comprehensive nature of the work accomplished and requested to outline proposed future activities. It replied that much of the previous work programme would continue, given the long-term nature of the population policy implementation process.

94. In response to a query on the human resources development training programme funded by the Netherlands government, the secretariat informed the Committee that a staff member had been recruited to conduct the programme, implementation of which was now underway.

95. The Amsterdam Declaration on "A Better Life for Future Generations", issued by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century held in Amsterdam from 6 to 9 November 1989, was circulated to participants.

Natural resources

96. The secretariat outlined a number of projects being implemented in collaboration with governments and other international agencies --the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and CARICOM. These included regional sewage disposal and coastal conservation studies; the incorporation of socio-cultural and environmental management issues in tourism; and hazardous waste disposal. Several delegates stressed the importance of tourism to the economic development of their countries, which were interested in being included in the relevant study.

97. In response to a request from a delegate for further information on collaboration between the secretariat and other agencies in the field of tourism, the secretariat outlined its collaboration with UNEP and the implementation of joint projects by ECLAC and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). The meeting was informed that at the ILO office in Port of Spain the services of a permanent staff member in the area of tourism would be available from 1990. An approach to tourism, based on the modality of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) had ILO's full support, but there was a need for the agencies to co-ordinate their work in this area.

98. With respect to the project Regional Sewage Disposal Studies, the Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Planning Committee comprising the CDB, CARICOM, CEHI, PAHO and ECLAC should continue to exist and should focus on co-operation with the governments in evaluating their sewage disposal capability, developing national sectoral plans and mobilizing external resources for project development.

99. The delegate of Suriname drew the meeting's attention to the declaration of Heads of State of Amazon countries on the environment and asked that it be mentioned in the report of the meeting.

Social sector

100. In view of the involvement of the Netherlands Antilles as joint co-ordinator of the "Removal of Language Barriers" project, that country's delegation was asked to present the report on the activities, which had focused on networking, institution-building and training at the subregional and national levels. The Committee was advised of the need for more planning, with countries examining more closely their language requirements in the areas of trade, tourism and other economic, social and cultural activities. Emphasis of the project was now on language planning at the national level, to permit effective assessment of needs, as defined by economic exigencies. Accordingly, Ministers of Education had been encouraged

to launch National Chapters of the Caribbean Language Institute, which would make an inventory and a genuine assessment of national needs.

101. It was observed that interest was emerging for language training in Portuguese and Haitian Creole (in the case of the latter, as a result of trade by the informal sector between Haiti and Curaçao). The Committee's attention was also drawn to the potential for the training of interpreters at the Translation and Interpretation Service Enterprise (ESTI) in Cuba; it was felt that such training could also serve to address the problem of language barriers experienced at official meetings. The importance of studying the possibilities of automatic translation was emphasized. It was proposed that means should be found to persuade Caribbean countries to move toward multilingualism.

102. Informing the Committee of the excellent co-operation and collaboration obtained from the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago in connection with interpretation and translation training, the secretariat expressed the view that the contribution of the Netherlands Antilles might serve as a model of project co-execution by a country with a comparative advantage in a specific area of the secretariat's work programme.

103. The positive contribution of the removal of language barriers project to regional economic and social development was emphasized and it was agreed that steps would be taken to include participation by the Haitian Ministry of Education.

104. The secretariat referred to the problems of identifying factors of measurement which, however qualitative, would indicate the impact of economic structural adjustment policies on the social sector. Initial work had focused on health, education and employment because in those sectors access to data was somewhat easier than in others, such as nutrition. The work carried out by UNICEF and ILO was acknowledged; it was noted that the former had carried out micro-studies in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and Barbados and was establishing a database at its subregional office in Barbados. In addition to the problem of data availability, there was another, of organizing and interpreting the available data. Moreover, several countries of the region had adopted different approaches towards economic adjustment, with consequently varying social impacts. It was suggested that as an interim activity, ECLAC should convene an inter-agency meeting with a special focus on comparing data, which would be made available to governments.

105. Illicit drug abuse was noted to be of grave social concern and the collaboration of UNFDAC in implementing a project in Grenada was acknowledged. The secretariat indicated that it would pursue negotiations with UNFDAC to extend the project to other Caribbean countries. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles expressed its country's interest in participating.

106. Attention was drawn to collaboration with the University of the West Indies on the Caribbean Network for Rural Development project, which had provided CDCC with scope for carrying out some activities in agriculture.

107. Reporting on its work to promote the integration of women in development, the secretariat highlighted the important role of informal sector traders, largely women, in the development of intra-regional trade; at times their contribution, according to the data, had been larger than that of the official trade sector. The informal sector also played an appreciable part in fostering regional integration, in that its trade patterns transcended language barriers.

108. Support was expressed by several delegations for the secretariat's WID programme, which had included various surveys and data-collection efforts, producing information on the extent and impact of the informal sector on the economic activities of member countries. The secretariat indicated that the computerized database, which it had established and made available to member countries, would contribute to the development of certain programmes of assistance, such as the formation of co-operatives, appropriate language training and the introduction of legislation to protect and assist informal traders. The overall programme, possibly in collaboration with ILO, would be refined as more information became available.

109. At the request of the Netherlands Antilles delegation, it was agreed that a special ECLAC mission would be carried out to collect data on regional experiences, research and documentation on the question of the integration of women in economic and social development.

110. The secretariat provided information on other activities of the WID programme, such as the compilation of a "Bibliography on Women", training, several publications and active participation in meetings on women throughout the region. The collaboration of ILO and the United Nations Fund for the Development of Women (UNIFEM) was acknowledged and the hope was expressed that this would continue.

111. The representatives of ILO and UNICEF informed the meeting that WID advisers were now attached to their respective offices and they would be pleased to co-operate with ECLAC. The ILO representative also informed the meeting that his organization was collaborating with UNIFEM in a project aimed at sensitizing adolescent women to future employment possibilities.

112. The Netherlands Antilles delegation invited CDCC member countries to participate in a conference of non-governmental organizations on the Future of Young Women, to be held in Curaçao in March 1990.

113. In outlining its on-going programme of providing facilities and services support to member countries of the OECS through the OECS secretariat, the secretariat informed the meeting that some OECS countries had ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, but had not yet submitted reports to the Bureau of the Convention. It was suggested that perhaps the secretariat could assist them in the preparation of such reports.

CDCC/CARICOM co-operation

114. The CARICOM Secretariat's representative affirmed his organization's continued awareness of the need for co-operation with CDCC to ensure the rational use of resources and avoid duplication of efforts, stating that mutually beneficial co-operation had taken place in such areas as information, science and technology and environmental matters and that the secretariat's Demography and Statistics Units had been of special assistance in preparation for the 1990 round of population censuses. He looked forward to co-operation related to the control of hazardous waste imports and asked that the Port of Spain Accord, adopted by the First Meeting of CARICOM Ministers of the Environment, 31 May-2 June 1989, be circulated. He associated himself with the emphasis placed on the value of the economic surveys presented by the secretariat and of the "Trade Procedures Guide".

115. He considered, notwithstanding, that the quality of inter-secretariat co-operation needed to be reviewed; there were areas, such as transportation, in which there had been a failure to consult, and co-operation on the TRAINMAR project, for example, had occurred virtually by accident. He hoped that a formal mechanism for co-operation in this area would eventually be triggered. He also expressed a desire for strong collaboration between the secretariats in the important area of trade in services --attention had so far been paid to consultancy (especially in the field of engineering), tourism, transport, banking and finance-- and observed that the region must seek to optimize benefits and avoid pitfalls in this area. Recalling that there had been a previous decision that the secretariats would consult each other in advance on the preparation of their respective work programmes, but that this arrangement had lapsed, he suggested that co-operation between programme managers would be useful.

116. It was observed that CDCC members were not all also members of CARICOM. For those countries which were not members of the latter, therefore, similar efforts by the two secretariats did not represent duplication. A mechanism which would respond to this reality was needed; it was suggested that the recently established Independent West Indian Commission might be able to address this issue within its programme.

Action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with implications for CDCC

117. The secretariat outlined action taken on CDCC resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies with respect to a Programme of Assistance to Small Island Developing Countries - resolution 24(XI); Policies on Harmful Wastes in the Environment - resolution 23(XI); and the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the International Development Strategy - resolution 43/182.

118. The Netherlands Antilles delegation proposed three issues requiring more in-depth consideration: the need to widen the economic base of CDCC member countries and encourage participation of trade unions and the private sector in the planning process; recent developments in Eastern Europe which might divert the flow of capital and assistance away from small island

countries; and reasons for the shift from multilateral to bilateral aid. The ILO representative endorsed the view that there was need for mobilizing the non-government sector in planning economic development.

119. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago expressed disappointment that a substantive report on island developing countries had not been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the resolution adopted at the previous session. The secretariat should have submitted to the Committee inputs for the High-Level Meeting on the subject scheduled for May 1990. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda reiterated the urgent need to develop and compile arguments illustrating the differences in the respective situations of small island countries and the least developed countries. Several delegations endorsed the suggestion that the secretariat convene a preparatory meeting in March 1990 to develop a co-ordinated Caribbean position. It was observed that considerable documentation that could form the core of background working papers for the meeting already existed.

120. The need was pointed out for more substantive information and clearer guidance from the secretariat on the issue of environment and harmful waste. A delegate expressed regret at the non-representation of the Caribbean region at the meeting in Basle to develop a convention on toxic waste. He suggested that the Caribbean group should focus on environment and development and access donor resources to formulate lines of action to accelerate achievement of development goals. The delegate of Jamaica proposed that the secretariat assist by co-ordinating the views and representation of member governments in preparation for such meetings.

121. The Committee was informed that the social impact of structural adjustment issues was receiving the ILO's attention at both the substantive and institutional levels and that the theme of tripartite machinery for economic development would be discussed at an ILO meeting scheduled for 1990.

122. The need was expressed for greater interaction between university systems in the Caribbean and it was proposed that linkages could be achieved through exchange of members of boards of supervisors; exchange of students and teachers; design of mandatory courses on Caribbean regional integration; sharing of course responsibility among universities; and the design of joint research projects to foster regional integration.

123. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of his government and that of Haiti, expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to the secretariat for its initiative and hard work in support of resolution 22(XI) which had assisted their countries relative to participation within the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP).

Agenda Item 6 - Role and functioning of CDCC

124. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC recalled that the CDCC constituted an attempt by the Commission to facilitate representation of the subregion's viewpoint on development issues. At the same time, ECLAC sought to provide a mixed contribution to the region, including intellectual inputs to policy, technical assistance, operational activities and a forum for the exchange of

ideas among member countries. The Commission was, however, not a donor agency; neither was it a specialized agency. It co-operated with such agencies in order to serve the governments better, by bringing initiatives to them and maintaining permanent dialogue with them; hence the need for a regional office. The Executive Secretary stated that while resources were never enough, they were sufficient to do a credible job for the CDCC and good projects would receive funding.

125. In response to a delegate's question as to whether the difficulties being experienced in defining the role of the CDCC were the fault of the governments or of the secretariat, the Executive Secretary expressed the view that some of the blame rested with the secretariat, which was taking note of the concerns expressed and would remedy them to the extent possible. He observed that development was, however, a complex matter and the results of efforts to achieve it were more intangible and difficult to assess than, say, the balance sheet of a bank.

126. Delegates expressed their thanks to the Executive Secretary for outlining his concept of ECLAC. It was concluded that various parts of government --and at times this included the focal points-- were not aware of the activities of the CDCC; it was therefore difficult to monitor the progress being made in the work programme. It was agreed that the secretariat should provide a report of its activities in the form of a balance sheet which would highlight the work done and tasks not completed, with the reasons for non-completion.

127. The delegate of the United States Virgin Islands referred to the resolution on the role and functioning of the CDCC, as formulated at the eleventh session under his chairmanship. Drawing attention to the tabled reports on the two Monitoring Committee meetings held since, he cited the proposals made at the eleventh session by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago and the subsequent formation of a CARICOM working group to review the role and functioning of CDCC. He recalled the request of the Monitoring Committee that the secretariat should provide a comprehensive report on the matter and expressed disappointment at the lack of a formal report. He also expressed the hope that the secretariat would provide documentation for the meeting in this regard, in keeping with the requests that had already been made.

128. The secretariat reported on the Monitoring Committee meetings, indicating that the first had provided an opportunity for discussion between the Committee and the secretariat on the composition and movement of the latter's staff. The meeting had had the benefit of a document which provided an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the work programme up to the middle of the intersessional period. Discussions had also taken place on implementation of the various recommendations of the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago.

129. The secretariat reaffirmed the importance of continuing TCDC activities as stressed in the report of the Monitoring Committee meeting referred to above, considering them the raison d'être of the CDCC. The view was, however, expressed that the secretariat was not making full use of TCDC modalities since the documentation provided to the meeting did not reflect this type of

activity. The secretariat observed that TCDC involved some element of cost being borne by the recipient country. However, it had had to modify the application of this concept in an attempt to accomplish the job at hand, since the costs to be borne by recipient countries sometimes represented a major limitation.

130. In response to a query as to whether all the requests of the two Monitoring Committee sessions had been fully met, the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee reiterated that the report requested in the relevant resolutions of the eleventh session had not been provided. The secretariat indicated, however, that the reply of the Executive Secretary appended to document LC/CAR/G.277 was intended to be a reply to that request.

131. The Committee expressed disappointment at the lack of progress made in fulfilling the mandates of the governments, as illustrated by the failure of the secretariat to convene inter-agency meetings as requested by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago. The impact of this could be seen by the fact that another resolution was being tabled on the matter. It was suggested that inactivity on the part of the secretariat in this area reflected an unwillingness to comply with resolution 26(XI).

132. Reference was made to resolution 13(VII) which demonstrated that since the 1983 session of CDCC, member governments had been expressing concern over the non-filling of vacant posts in the secretariat. It was unfortunate that this remained a concern. Frustration was expressed at the non-compliance of the secretariat with the wishes of the governments: earlier requests for the return of the P-5 post from Santiago had not been satisfied, and the post remained in Santiago 12 months later. It was felt that the admonition of the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago at the eleventh session, to the effect that the secretariat should not lose any more posts, had been ignored. Since that session, the services of the Trade Officer, together with his post, had been lost to the secretariat and several officers, including the officer responsible for Women in Development, had left to serve in Namibia. It was to be noted that the Committee, since 1983, had ascribed the highest priority to women in development, but despite this and the recruitment of several temporary officers into the secretariat, no appointment had been made to replace the officer in that programme. In this connection, it was recalled that the UNCTAD representative at the eleventh session had indicated that while United Nations practice sanctioned temporary appointments, the use of such appointments could be abused and could serve to frustrate the wishes of governments. In the light of this persistent disregard of the priorities established by governments and the mandates on which they had agreed, the Committee needed to find some solution to the problem.

133. Another delegate referred to the statements of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago at the seventh session and to a statement made at that meeting summarizing the position of the countries regarding CDCC meetings, where the following main points had been made:

a) Few programmes had been executed at the level of CDCC and ECIAC;

b) There was a great need to rationalize programmes with a view to eliminating duplication of effort and overlapping of activity;

c) There was a need to provide the secretariat with resources to undertake its mandates.

The delegate added that when those three points were analysed and examined against the present situation, the problem seemed even more complex. The view was reiterated that the secretariat was responsible for executing the mandates of the governments. The meeting was reminded of resolution 20(IX) in which the secretariat had been urged to take certain action to consult member countries on areas of common concern, so as to effect co-ordinated activities with CARICOM and SELA in areas of interest to CDCC member countries. In that connection, the secretariat was requested to hold consultations to identify specific co-operation projects with the Caribbean and Latin America. Several instances were recalled in which the secretariat had been asked to extend its activities and to place priority on projects that did not require much financial outlay, but involved a large number of countries. The Removal of Language Barriers project, co-ordinated jointly with the Netherlands Antilles, was one such activity. Evaluation of its success would be possible in the future.

134. This latter project was cited as exemplary, in that it had been clearly outlined and could therefore be effectively monitored. It would be most interesting to receive a report on the mobilization of finance for the project and some indication of the work to be implemented. This type of reporting, it was felt, would facilitate an evaluation of the progress of programmes.

135. A delegate recalled the observations made by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago at the previous session in support of the view that the CDCC represented a basic link between the English-speaking Caribbean countries and the wider Caribbean. He expressed uncertainty as to the secretariat's accomplishments in this regard and stressed the importance of the CDCC as a mechanism for collaboration and co-operation for the benefit of all countries of the subregion.

136. On the subject of the Monitoring Committee, the secretariat was requested to present a report on projects for the 1990-1991 biennium, identifying the different sources of financing with which the projects would be implemented. The observation was made that the document on the work programme was not in accordance with the wishes of the meeting. Attention was drawn to the difference between the ECLAC work programme and that of CDCC.

137. The secretariat was requested to answer four specific questions by another delegate:

a) What was the difference between the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters, on the one hand and the CDCC, on the other?

b) What were the budgetary regulations; how much was the budget and, specifically, how did the budgetary process take place?

c) What was the role of the Liaison Officer of CDCC in Santiago?

d) Why was it so difficult to get a list of focal points of CDCC countries? Did not all CDCC countries have these?

138. In response to an earlier request for clarification, it was explained that CARICOM had launched an initiative to determine which of the proposals put forward by the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago at the eleventh session could be implemented at the CDCC level. CARICOM also sought to find out what needed to be done in order for the remaining proposals to be implemented. It was further pointed out that in the opinion of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, some of the proposals of the eleventh session were not implementable and that other proposals made would have to be approved by the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the General Assembly. The meeting was informed that CARICOM had been unable to find the answers that it had sought.

139. Observing that CDCC member governments had not taken a close look at the working of the secretariat within recent times, a delegate observed that the budget of ECLAC was not known by member governments. He wondered whether the entire work programme should be discarded in favour of a new one.

140. The secretariat clarified that implementation of many of the proposals of the Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago was beyond the competence of the CDCC and the issues needed to be resolved through the relevant organs of the United Nations in New York. With reference to the difference between ECLAC and CDCC, it was explained that the entire budget of the CDCC secretariat (latterly, approximately US$2.5 million per biennium) was borne by ECLAC. The budgeted work programme was presented by ECLAC to the United Nations system for financing and therefore had to be prepared in accordance with the United Nations format. The extrabudgetary resources mentioned reflected the efforts of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat in Port of Spain to mobilize such resources.

141. The secretariat informed the meeting that in most countries the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the focal point of the CDCC. Regarding the status of CDCC linkages with United Nations agencies, the meeting was informed that the UNDP Resident Representative convened regular inter-agency meetings in Port of Spain to discuss the work of the United Nations agencies. The CDCC secretariat also collaborated closely with UNFPA in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba. Linkages had been established with ILO, whose database was at present on-line at the secretariat. Work with WIPO was effected through PIDU at the secretariat. Links were also maintained, with UNESCO, with initiatives in Education for Development (CARNEID), training in information systems through the CDS/ISIS programme and in science and technology through CCST. Collaboration also took place with UNFDAC, UNCTAD, FAO, UNCTC and other agencies. In addition, there existed continuous collaboration with CARICOM, OECS, SELA and CDB. As an example of activities involving the private sector, it was indicated that the CDCC secretariat had co-sponsored a meeting of the Caribbean Employers' Confederation in Haiti, to which Haiti was admitted as a member. Several instances of collaboration with non-independent countries of the region, in terms of providing them with linkages to the United Nations

system, were cited by the secretariat. It had continued to work with the Netherlands Antilles in an attempt to increase linkages with UNFPA and the TCDC Unit in New York. A project in demography was in progress in Haiti. The secretariat's Tourism Officer had provided advisory services to the Government of Haiti, while in Cuba, the secretariat had been closely involved with several organizations in the execution of a number of successful projects connected with the removal of language barriers. Indicating that it had taken the initiative of raising funds outside the United Nations system for some activities, the secretariat invited governments which had been beneficiaries of such services to negate the statements that the secretariat had not complied with their requests.

142. On the subject of the loss of posts, it was clarified that a number of new posts at the secretariat were financed from sources other than the regular budget. Attention was drawn to the distinction between vacant and encumbered posts. Encumbering a post allowed preference to be given to the use of persons from within the member governments, possessing relevant experience, who could make a contribution to the work of the secretariat.

143. Progress had been made in acquiring new premises which were more conducive to work. Also, some US$750,000 in computer hardware and software had been procured, largely through extrabudgetary funding.

144. In addition to its regular programme, the secretariat had provided advisory services to some governments, through their Ministries of Planning and of Finance, as well as some other ministries.

145. The secretariat sought guidance from the governments as to its activities, bearing in mind the limits of its available funds and the constraints of the rules and regulations of the United Nations system.

146. Another delegate expressed concern regarding the current functioning of CDCC; the need was noted for reflection on how the institution could better discharge its mandate. The view was expressed that it was not possible to achieve better performance by the CDCC merely by drafting additional resolutions; a way needed to be found for the governments and the secretariat to work together on this question. There was also a need to find ways to correct the communication problem which seemed to exist, as the focal points were often unaware of the programmes being undertaken by the secretariat in collaboration with relevant line ministries.

147. While the extensive nature of the work of the CDCC was evident, another delegate nevertheless noted that its overall performance could not be assessed positively, except in the areas of information and statistics. The work of the Committee was considered to be disparate and therefore not focused on the implementation of major government priorities. Additionally, in the area of training --one of the greatest quantitative outputs of CDCC-- it could be asked if training, in every case, extended beyond the individual directly involved. It was also pointed out that in many areas, CDCC's work programme was providing assistance which was not much more substantive than that which governments, with little extra effort, could mobilize themselves. Part of the concerns with CDCC's present functioning sprang from the very high expectations of member governments from the secretariat with regard to

demonstrable development impact and transparent secretariat mechanisms for improved tapping of the substantial resources available in the United Nations system as a whole. In this context, it was felt that the inter-agency meeting was a priority and should be held without delay.

148. It was noted by a delegate that the budget for the CDCC was inadequate for the range of activities mandated, and consequently the secretariat should be complimented on the management of its limited resources. It was felt that a greater effort should be made by the secretariat to publicize its efforts.

149. In response to a query raised, the CDCC Liaison Officer in Santiago referred to the terms of his appointment which were, in summary, to incorporate a Caribbean perspective into the work of ECLAC, Santiago. While the main substantive functions were directed to the Economic Development Division, which included an increasing amount of Caribbean inputs in its economic analyses, a consultative function was also carried out, to provide Caribbean inputs for missions, documents or projects. In response to a question, he indicated that the inputs were mainly in terms of the Caribbean to ECLAC, Santiago rather than the reverse.

150. Responding to questions from delegations, the secretariat indicated that the major portion of its budget was allocated to staff emoluments and operational expenses and that the programme was essentially technical and advisory (skills-intensive), with heavy demands upon the secretariat staff and facilities.

151. Regular reports were requested on the staffing of the CDCC secretariat, including the activities in which the various staff members were engaged and the sources from which they were paid, particularly as regards short-term assignments and consultants. Despite the mandate that the secretariat should emphasize consultation and co-operation, as against project execution, further information was also required as to how projects were chosen and on what authority, so as to trace the nexus between authority and action.

152. The secretariat responded that projects were of a mixed nature, some providing staff, while others represented a Caribbean component of region-wide projects. The secretariat could also initiate projects consistent with the approved programme and in line with established priorities. Other projects were directed to the provision of equipment. Ad hoc funding was also available where donor countries might have specific interests and this could provide benefits for the region. The secretariat indicated that in its presentation, emphasis had been placed on outputs rather than the staff component, and it explained that staff could be sourced from different areas to supplement the secretariat's resources. It was noted that the outputs of the secretariat were not always tangible or visible, since many activities were essentially geared to producing inputs for governmental programmes and activities. Many of these activities, such as in the areas of information and statistical databases, although quite expensive to establish and maintain, were also offered free to the general public. It was further noted that funding from the Government of the Netherlands had been provided for human resources development and training in various sectors.

153. It was pointed out that the Government of the Netherlands had shown increasing interest in supporting CDCC projects, such as the "Promotion of Training Policies in the Caribbean Subregion" and the "Removal of Language Barriers" projects.

Agenda Items 7 to 9 - Work programme of the CDCC for the first period of the 1990-1991 biennium; Work programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the 1992-1993 biennium; United Nations medium-term plan (1992-1997)

154. In response to a proposal that the meeting should define the work programme of CDCC for the period 1990-1991 separately from that of the ECLAC Office in Port of Spain, the secretariat indicated that the 1990-1991 programme had already been approved by the CDCC and funded; it mainly comprised on-going activities which would be carried over into 1990. It was clarified, however, that there was a measure of flexibility which allowed for adjustment of priorities in approved programmes, as circumstances and needs of member governments changed.

155. Accordingly, with respect to specific activities to be undertaken in 1990, it was proposed that:

a) A database should be created containing information on the language training resources in the region (the secretariat stated that facilities were available for such an activity, without using new resources);

b) The science and technology national consultations should be extended to include Haiti;

c) The 1990-1991 work programme should be modified to emphasize that the training of interpreters would be directed towards the CDCC's efforts for the elimination of language barriers;

d) Consultations with the ECLAC Office in Mexico should be carried out for the purpose of intensifying relations, through the work programme, between the CDCC and Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic;

e) Funds and assistance should be provided or sought, in order to ensure that the national focal points of the science and technology information network between CDCC member countries initiated by the programmes of the Caribbean Science and Technology Information Network (CARSTIN) and the Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC) became fully operational during the biennium;

f) The secretariat should seek more ways to increase interregional trade, as well as trade between CDCC member countries and Latin American and European markets (in this regard, the Netherlands Antilles delegation offered the services of Curaçao Inc. and the SETEL telecommunications resource centre based in Curaçao, to assist the secretariat and member countries in exploring alternatives to the present communications infrastructure in the region);

g) Special emphasis should be placed on providing increased technology for small and medium-sized farmers and stimulating trade in processed and semi-processed commodities.

The secretariat agreed to include these items in a corrigendum.

156. It was noted that the CDCC work programme could, in future, be so formulated that Caribbean programmes would be more clearly identified within the ECIAC work programme. Accordingly, the secretariat was requested to alter the format of its work programme document to identify the order of priorities relative to budgetary allocations; to assign funding to the various programme elements; and to indicate what portion of funds would be allocated to such items as expert costs and travel.

157. The secretariat observed that in the present format, the CDCC budget provided a greater degree of flexibility, since the budget related to the programme as a whole. The new United Nations regulations would require specific allocations to be related to output. Nevertheless, the new procedures would provide greater transparency as to how each element was to be funded.

158. In response to enquiries about the activities of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) in the area of environmental protection, the secretariat indicated that a pilot programme was being initiated by that institution with respect to environmental protection legislation. It would further investigate these activities to ascertain if any benefits could be derived by the region.

159. The delegate of the Bahamas observed that agriculture, international trade and development finance were areas of high priority and that TCDC provided the umbrella under which international trade and agriculture could be pursued.

160. In response to an enquiry, the secretariat indicated that the economic and technical co-operation envisaged between the CDCC and the Pacific Rim countries for the work period 1992-1993 would be conducted through contacts with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and might focus, for example, on its programme on small island developing countries or on craft and techniques developed by the Japanese for inter-island transport. It was also agreed that the activities of SELA regarding the Pacific Rim countries would be monitored on a continuing basis.

Agenda Item 10 - Establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

161. The UNESCO delegate indicated the involvement of his organization in the on-going work of CCST, which was directed at integrating science and technology into developmental activities. UNESCO had been involved in the creation of CCST and considered it a valuable entity. Regarding the suggestion for a regular inter-agency meeting in association with CDCC sessions, UNESCO would be happy to participate in such an activity. With

respect to the establishment of a permanent secretariat for CCST, he indicated that UNESCO would continue to provide programme support, although it would be unable to provide infrastructural support.

162. Disquiet was expressed at what appeared to be the modest achievements of CCST. However, at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, new directives had been suggested and it was hoped that, at the next meeting, the Committee would provide further impetus to its work. It was noted that a decision on the permanent secretariat of CCST was to be taken at the next plenary session of CCST.

163. It was proposed that as sufficient funding was not forthcoming to secure a permanent secretariat for the CCST, it should continue to be serviced by the CDCC secretariat.

Agenda Item 11 - Other business

164. The secretariat indicated that it had a responsibility for disaster-preparedness and while it did not have funding to provide direct assistance to governments of member countries suffering from natural disasters, ECLAC nevertheless had the capability to assist in organizing the process of rehabilitation and recovery. This capability, which derived from experience in dealing with natural disasters in South and Central America, took the form of missions to prepare short to medium-term programmes and provided a useful framework to assist countries to mobilize the necessary resources. Assistance could also be provided to the non-independent countries to interface with the United Nations system. Co-ordination had taken place in the field with regional agencies such as CARICOM, the OECS and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO); the CARICOM representative indicated that the UNDRO project in question was due to end soon and, on the instructions of his organization's Heads of Government, would be inherited by the CARICOM Secretariat in mid-1990. Initially, the project would cater for CARICOM States, but was expected to include other countries later. The CDCC would be apprised of developments as they occurred.

165. Appreciation was expressed to the secretariat for clarifying its role in this area. At the same time, reference was made to other initiatives in the United Nations system, notably in the context of the General Assembly resolution sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda and a Fourth Committee resolution urging assistance to the affected countries. It was noted that the United Nations had declared the 1990s as the Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction and it was hoped that the CDCC would comply with the proposal that each organization should prepare its own action plan. The secretariat was asked to collaborate in the initiatives of other agencies and in formulation of an action plan for the countries affected by Hurricane Hugo.

Agenda Item 12 - Place and date of CDCC XIII

166. The secretariat was requested to enter into consultations with member governments with a view to setting the place and date of the thirteenth session of CDCC.

Agenda Item 13 - Consideration and adoption of the report

167. In adopting its report, the Committee requested the secretariat to prepare the final version and dispatch it to member countries for comment within 30 days.

PART FOUR

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SESSION

27(XII) WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS OF NON-INDEPENDENT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling resolution 21(X) of the tenth session of CDCC and resolution 24(XI) of the eleventh session of CDCC which called for the examination of the access of non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions from the sixth through the 43rd sessions calling for the participation in the work of the United Nations by the non-independent territories,

Aware that the first phase of this examination by CDCC was initiated with a mission to Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands to ascertain the current level of participation in the technical organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations,

Desiring to increase the level of participation by these countries in the United Nations system by supporting their fullest access to programmes available to them from the United Nations agencies,

Mindful of Article 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the parent body of the CDCC, in reference to the wide geographic scope of CDCC,

Recognizing CDCC, the only Caribbean organization at the ministerial level directly associated with the United Nations, as the most suitable regional institution to promote the participation of its non-independent member countries in the United Nations system,

Aware of the success of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in achieving the participation of the non-independent

Pacific countries in programmes and activities of the wider United Nations system pursuant to relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions,

1. Affirms the role of the CDCC in facilitating the maximum participation possible of the CDCC member countries in the wider United Nations system;

2. Decides to establish a working group of the CDCC to examine the access of non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with the aim of promoting from within that System technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process.

28(XII) REMOVAL OF LANGUAGE BARRIERS

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Considering that the most important thrust which the Regional Language Barriers Project will have is to make the peoples of the Caribbean acquire a willingness and an openness to learn and speak the languages of each other in the interest of advancing economic and cultural co-operation,

Considering that one of the best ways to promote this is to bring school children at an early stage in contact with foreign languages so as to create a lasting sensitivity to such languages,

Recommends all member countries:

i) To promote the teaching of languages of the region, and where considered appropriate Caribbean creole languages, as early as possible, preferably in elementary schools;

ii) To promote interchange of students between countries in the Caribbean having different languages;

iii) To promote regular radio and television programmes for young people in the various languages of the CDCC member countries;

iv) To support all concrete efforts undertaken to enhance better communication in Caribbean trade;

v) To utilize all other means to promote the highest sensitivity possible to multilingualism.

29(XII) ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CDCC: CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE CDCC AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 358(XVI) which established the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a co-ordinating and consultative body, relating to development and co-ordination in respect of Caribbean issues,

Recalling other relevant resolutions of the CDCC on the role and functioning of the CDCC,

Considering the need to strengthen the co-operation that already exists between the CDCC and regional organizations, United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and to identify areas of potential further co-operation in respect of the economic, scientific, educational, social and cultural development of the Caribbean,

1. Requests the secretariat to take the necessary measures to promote and expand co-operation and co-ordination between the CDCC and regional and international organizations in order to increase the capacity of the CDCC to realize its objectives;

2. Requests the secretariat, in collaboration with the relevant competent organizations, to convene each year one inter-organizational meeting immediately before and another shortly after the session of the CDCC to ascertain and improve the functional co-operation between the CDCC and regional and international organizations and other donor agencies;

3. Further requests the secretariat to submit the reports of such meetings to the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC and to the annual session of the CDCC;

4. Directs that the item "Inter-organizational Co-operation" be inscribed on the Agenda of each meeting of the CDCC.

30(XI) CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE CDCC AND THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT IN RELATION WITH NON-CARICOM CDCC MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 358(XVI) which established the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee as a co-ordinating and consultative body, relating to development and co-ordination in respect of Caribbean issues,

Taking into account the role played by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in promoting economic integration within the subregion,

Recalling further the commitment by the CDCC, expressed in operative paragraph 3 of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, to "utilize the experience accumulated by CARICOM and other bodies which is of value for the achievement of the aim of co-operation among Caribbean countries",

Considering the statement by Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago, at the eleventh session of the CDCC, that "the promotion of co-operation among its membership and particularly between CARICOM and non-CARICOM States has always been and continues to remain one of the major objectives of the CDCC",

Taking into account the initiative of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 1989 to create an Independent West Indian Commission for advancing the goals of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, and the potential value of this Commission in strengthening the relations between the CARICOM and non-CARICOM member countries,

1. Requests the secretariat to take the necessary measures to support the work of the Independent West Indian Commission in order to give the Commission all the necessary information to help it to achieve its objectives;

2. Requests all member countries and the secretariat to facilitate contact between the Independent West Indian Commission and the non-CARICOM CDCC member countries in order to assist the Commission in its work;

3. Further requests the secretariat to submit a report to the thirteenth session of the CDCC on the implementation of this resolution.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LISTE DE PARTICIPANTS

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency
Mr. Lionel A. Hurst
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

BAHAMAS

Head of delegation:

His Excellency
The Honourable Edward Charles Carter

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Marilyn T. Zonicle

BELIZE

Head of delegation:

Mr. Lawrence A. Sylvester
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Belize
to the United Nations

CUBA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency
Mr. Raul Taladrid Suarez
Vice-Ministro
Comité Estatal de
Colaboración Económica (CECE)

Mr. Ramiro León Torras
Mr. Pedro M. Alvarez
Ms. Silvina Santos Guisado

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of delegation:

Mr. Pedro María Luna Matos
Counsellor
Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Federico Camacho
Ms. Clara Quiñones

GUYANA

Head of delegation: His Excellency
The Honourable Rashleigh
E. Jackson
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Bibi Naseeb Khan

REPUBLIC OF HAITI

Head of delegation: Mr. Leon Massillon
Consul General of Haiti
in the Netherlands Antilles

JAMAICA

Head of delegation: Mr. Stafford Neil
High Commissioner of Jamaica
to Trinidad and Tobago

Mrs. Cordell Y. Wilson

SAINT LUCIA

Head of delegation: His Excellency
Dr. Charles S. Flemming
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia
to the United Nations

SURINAME

Head of delegation : His Excellency
Mr. Ferdinand Van Dijk
Ambassador of Suriname to Venezuela

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Head of delegation: His Excellency
Mr. Eden Arthur Shand
Minister in the Ministry
of External Affairs and
International Trade

Mr. Louis A. Wiltshire
Mr. Francis A. McBarnette

A. Associate Members
Miembros Asociados
Membres Associés

ARUBA

Head of delegation:

His Excellency
The Honourable N. Oduber
Prime Minister

Ms. Jeanette R. Semeleer
Mr. M.E. Robles

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Head of delegation:

Her Excellency
The Honourable Maria Liberia-Peters
Prime Minister

Mr. Eric N. Kleinmoedig
Ms. Lucita Moenir Alam
Mr. Ralph A. Berkel
Mr. Peter A. Granger
Mr. Dennis Dare
Ms. Bernadette Dougle
Mr. Cedric Eisden
Ms. Diana P. Fleming
Mr. E.A. Gcilo
Mrs. Criselda Hart-Pieternella
Mr. Raymond Jessurun
Mrs. Joëlle de Jong-Mercelina
Mr. Ivan Kuster
Mr. Valdemar Marcha
Mr. Frank Martinus
Mr. Sultan N. Saab

UNITES STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Head of delegation:

Dr. Carlyle Corbin
Representative for External Affairs
Office of the Governor

B. United Nations Secretariat
Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas
Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

United Nations Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship (SPQRCDT)

Mr. Kenneth N. Jordan, Political Affairs Officer
New York

United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD)

Mr. Augusto Silvany, Senior Economic Affairs Officer
New York

C. United Nations Bodies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
Organismes des Nations Unies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Dede Emerson Davies, Resident Representative, a.i.
UNDP, Port of Spain

Mr. Ram Maharaj

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Mr. K. V. R. Moorthy, UNFPA Country Director for the Caribbean
UNFPA, Jamaica

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Mr. Gerald Clark, Programme Officer
UNICEF, Caribbean Area Office, Barbados

D. United Nations specialized agencies
Organismos especializados
Institutions spécialisées

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. Ian Chambers, Director
ILO Caribbean Office, Trinidad and Tobago

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Captain W.R. Rial, Regional Maritime Safety Adviser
IMO, Trinidad and Tobago

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Dr. Winthrop Wiltshire, Subregional Science & Technology Adviser in the Caribbean
UNESCO, Trinidad and Tobago

E. Other intergovernmental organizations
Otros organismos intergubernamentales
Autres organismes inter-gouvernementaux

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Mr Frank Abdullah, Deputy Secretary-General
Mr Frank A. Campbell

F. ECLAC
CEPAL
CEPALC

Mr. Gert Rosenthal
Mr. Clyde C. Applewhite
Ms. Yvonne Acosta
Ms. Maureen Afoon
Mr. Daniel Blanchard
Mr. Erik Blommestein
Ms. Barbara Boland
Ms. Coral Brathwaite
Mr. Lancelot Busby
Ms. Joanne d'Abadie
Ms. Susan Gordon
Ms. Sylvia Gutiérrez

Mr. Trevor Harker
Ms. Christine Philip
Ms. Wilma Primus
Mr. Horacio Santamaria
Mr. Donatus St Aimee
Mr. Wilfred Whittingham

Annex II

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DR. CARLYLE CORBIN,
REPRESENTATIVE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN THE OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Your Excellency, Mrs. Maria Liberia-Peters, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles,
Honourable Ministers of CDCC member countries, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,
Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC,

In my capacity as outgoing Chairman of the CDCC, permit me to congratulate you, Excellency, in anticipation of your election as Chairman of this twelfth session.

I would also like to commend the Government of the Netherlands Antilles for the excellent facilities it has provided us for our most important deliberations.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

It was about this time last year that my government hosted the eleventh session of the CDCC on the island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands and assumed the chair of this institution --the widest regional intergovernmental organization at the ministerial level, and the only such regional body associated with the United Nations.

The eleventh session was marked by a renewed sense of purpose, and a commitment to redefine the role and functioning of the CDCC, as our region moves into the final decade of the twentieth century, a few short years before the unification of the European Economic Community (EEC), with its potential ramifications for the regional economies, and as we look to the future of the Caribbean in the third millennium.

It may be recalled that a set of proposals on the CDCC's role in all this was put forth in a dynamic opening statement at the eleventh session of the CDCC by the outgoing Chairman, the Honourable Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and International Trade of Trinidad and Tobago.

These proposals, later endorsed by a resolution of the CDCC, emphasized the role of the CDCC as a co-ordination and consultative body, the need for a more programmatic and fiscally autonomous institution, and the necessity of adequate staffing to carry out the work programme approved by the governments.

This resolution served as the basis for an ongoing analysis conducted by the governments of the CDCC through the mechanism of the Monitoring Committee, and also by the CARICOM Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, through their own internal apparatus.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the CARICOM Foreign Ministers held in Castries, Saint Lucia last May, in fact, "emphasized the need for a strong, effective and supportive CDCC, and reiterated the CARICOM commitment to the implementation of the recommendations on the role and functioning" of the CDCC, approved at the eleventh session.

My government has consistently placed great emphasis on the implementation of CDCC resolutions as well as United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

We therefore attached particular interest to the development of a plan of action by the secretariat to carry out this mandate given to it by the governments on the role and functioning of CDCC.

To this end, the CDCC Monitoring Committee met twice during 1989 to review the progress of the development of this plan of action --first in March at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and again in August at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

In both meetings, the potential for the full implementation of the resolution on the role and functioning was thoroughly examined, particularly with respect to impediments --real and imagined-- to implementation of the specific recommendations called for in the relevant CDCC resolution.

The secretariat was afforded the opportunity to inform the governments at these two Monitoring Committee meetings, as well as by correspondence, of its views on implementation, particularly where the secretariat considered follow-up action by the governments in the relevant instrumentalities of the United Nations General Assembly as necessary for a number of the recommendations to be carried out, and especially where the secretariat felt that financial constraints within the United Nations system could make some recommendations, especially those regarding adequate staffing, extremely difficult, if not impossible, to implement.

Following these exercises and the parallel analysis conducted by CARICOM in co-operation with the CDCC Monitoring Committee, the secretariat assured the governments that a set of proposals would be made to the twelfth session of CDCC.

As outgoing Chairman, I look forward with great interest to reviewing these formal proposals to be put forth by the secretariat at this meeting.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

Another resolution of the ministers of the tenth and eleventh sessions of CDCC called for a Plan of Action for small island developing countries of the Caribbean.

The United Nations General Assembly has approved a series of resolutions reiterating the call for specific measures in favour of the small island developing countries, which face considerable constraints on their development arising from the interplay of such factors as smallness,

remoteness, fragility of the ecosystem, limited natural resources, economies of scale, distance from market centers, limited internal market, and other factors, including a major consideration that has recently become increasingly evident in the Caribbean --vulnerability to natural disasters.

The destruction caused by Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica and Nicaragua in 1988, and the impact of the monstrous Hurricane Hugo on the seven CDCC member countries of Saint Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles (particularly St. Martin), and the United States Virgin Islands, in addition to two non-CDCC countries, Anguilla and Puerto Rico, caused severe damage totalling thousands of millions of United States dollars, and mass destruction and dislocation of families, particularly in Montserrat and the island of St. Croix.

The Caribbean on the whole is extremely susceptible to these killer storms, and I know that my government is joined by all CDCC member countries in expressing its deep concern and solidarity with the people of the countries affected by this devastation.

In this connection, my government commends the quick action taken by several Caribbean governments, particularly Antigua-Barbuda, for the introduction in the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution to provide assistance to many of these countries affected by Hurricane Hugo --a resolution which was quickly approved by consensus.

Further, my government is appreciative of the support in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, chaired by the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, for the call for assistance to the countries of the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the United States Virgin Islands in the post-hurricane reconstruction effort.

My government notes with interest the agenda item before this twelfth session on assistance to countries affected by Hurricane Hugo, and is anxious to hear the proposals of the secretariat to mobilize assistance from the United Nations system for these countries in the recovery and reconstruction phases.

In this connection, my government is interested in examining the role of the CDCC in dealing with the consequences of such Caribbean natural disasters, and seeing how quickly it can and/or should respond in the event of future regional crises of a similar nature. We commend the United Nations General Assembly for its approval of resolution 42/169 designating the Decade 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Reduction of Natural Disasters, and call on the CDCC to conduct an analysis of the countries affected by Hurricane Hugo, its effects on economic development and living conditions, and requirements for rehabilitation and reconstruction, including the preparation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction project outline similar to that prepared for Nicaragua by the ECLAC secretariat in relation to the effects of Hurricane Gilbert in 1988.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

A specific feature of particular note in the resolution approved at the eleventh session of CDCC regarding small island developing countries was the examination of the access of the non-independent Caribbean Countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

That this analysis should have been undertaken by the CDCC is indicative of a broader perspective of the Caribbean, regardless of language, constitutional status, or other artificial barriers historically used to keep us apart.

This wide perspective of the Caribbean, conceived by the late, great Dr. Eric Williams, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was the driving force in the very creation of the CDCC at the sixteenth session of the then Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

At that session, Prime Minister Williams spoke of the creation of a "Caribbean Council of ECLA to deal specifically with Caribbean issues and circumstances and to embrace all Caribbean governmental entities from Belize to Cayenne irrespective of political status".

This concept of wideness is perhaps the most unique --and simultaneously the most challenging-- feature of the CDCC, for within our institution are all 13 members of the English-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM), sitting side by side with the Spanish, French, and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries: the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, the Netherlands Antilles, and Aruba.

Of particular note is the participation in CDCC of the non-independent Caribbean as well.

This participation extends not only to the self-governing countries of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, both of whom maintain a free association relationship with a larger country, but also includes those countries defined by international law as non-self-governing, including the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the United States Virgin Islands, who have yet to determine their constitutional preference.

Under this broad mandate, the countries of Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Anguilla and others could also benefit from an association with the work of the CDCC, particularly those countries which have been historically isolated from the rest of the region and from the international community.

It is the CDCC --and perhaps only the CDCC-- that is uniquely designed to facilitate communication between these non-independent Caribbean countries and the wider region.

It is not insignificant, then, that the chairmanship of CDCC is now being passed from one non-independent country to another, because for many of us in the non-independent Caribbean, the CDCC represents the only vehicle we have to interact with the international system and we therefore regard a

strong CDCC as essential to the continuation and expansion of the concept of co-operation of the wider Caribbean --the very vision that Dr. Williams and his colleagues set forth in 1975.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

These factors serve to reveal the obvious: that the Caribbean has more non-independent countries than any other region of the world, and following the independence of Namibia, the eyes of the international community will focus on our region --as well as on the Pacific-- as the United Nations, of which the CDCC is a part, commemorates the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Appropriate resources from the United Nations system must therefore be provided to address these concerns.

Recent constitutional developments in Anguilla, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and elsewhere in the non-independent Caribbean serve to illustrate that decolonization is very much a contemporary Caribbean issue and the United Nations has long recognized that the participation of non-independent countries in the United Nations system is in furtherance of the economic and constitutional development of these countries.

As part of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations decolonization declaration of 1960, a major seminar on the economic and constitutional status of the non-independent Caribbean will be held in 1990 in our region, and Caribbean governments should play an active role in this and other activities planned for that period.

At the tenth session of the CDCC in Port of Spain, my government put forth a resolution, approved by the Ministers attending that session, on the participation of the non-independent Caribbean countries in programmes and activities of the United Nations System.

A resolution to continue the examination was approved at the eleventh session, but was not properly implemented.

These resolutions were carefully developed in recognition of the wide scope of the CDCC, as well as in conformity with relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly dating back to 1950 calling for the direct participation of non-independent countries in the wider United Nations system, as a mechanism to promote their economic development.

Of course, resolutions of the CDCC or any other intergovernmental body are only effective if they are properly implemented.

ECLAC, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNESCO and UNDP are all to be commended for making provision for the participation of the non-independent countries in their programmes.

However, most United Nations institutions that could provide essential technical and other assistance to these countries in the furtherance of their development process are barely aware of their responsibility to facilitate

the participation of these non-independent countries in the United Nations system.

In the Caribbean, the CDCC is the only institution directly linked to the United Nations and responsible for opening the windows of opportunity for these countries to access the wider United Nations system.

It is in this context that the relevant resolutions were approved at the tenth and eleventh sessions of CDCC.

There are times, however, when interpretations on how to implement directives differ, and the implementation of resolution 24(XI) on the "examination of the access of the non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system" was not carried out by the secretariat in the manner intended by the resolution.

My government regrets that this essential component of the plan of action for small island developing countries was misinterpreted by the secretariat --despite a number of attempts by the Chairman to clarify the intent of the resolution.

In retrospect, it is evident that a thorough understanding of the varied constitutional arrangements of the different entities in the non-independent Caribbean is a necessary prerequisite to fulfill the mandate given by the Caribbean governments in furtherance of this initiative, and to give substance to the very concept of the wider Caribbean that is the very basis for the CDCC's existence.

Accordingly, in order to successfully carry out this mandate, my government will introduce at this twelfth session of the CDCC a resolution for the creation of a Working Group of Non-Independent Caribbean Countries to promote the participation of such countries in programmes and activities of the wider United Nations system and to further the aim of economic and technical co-operation between the non-independent Caribbean and the wider Caribbean, in conformity with CDCC resolutions and with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

One of the most challenging aspects of the Chairmanship was the promotion of the CDCC within the international community as an existing, vibrant regional institution with a major part to play in Caribbean economic development.

The raising of the level of visibility of the CDCC became an almost immediate priority, so that the institution might take its rightful complementary role among other dynamic Caribbean institutions such as CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

As Chairman, my government participated in a number of international forums in this regard, including the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, the United Nations Fourth Committee, two United States Congress Caribbean study missions in Barbados and Jamaica, respectively, the

Puerto Rico Conference on Trade and Investment, and others --all to provide much-needed insights on the role of the CDCC in socio-economic development in the region.

I trust that, through these and other activities, my government has assisted in increasing the awareness of the importance of the CDCC to regional development and co-operation, and that the process has heralded the potential of CDCC as a dynamic Caribbean institution, all the while directing the critical analysis of its role and functioning.

We have served the governments of CDCC with pride and have been ever-vigilant. I trust that we have also served the governments with distinction.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished Ministers,

I know that I speak for all the governments of CDCC when I wish you every success as you assume the Chair of our institution and carry on the important analysis of how CDCC can serve the needs of the governments. I am sure that you will always have the full support of the CDCC governments during your tenure, and we stand ever ready to assist you, in the months ahead.

Thank you very much.

Annex III

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. GERT ROSENTHAL,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Madame Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles,
Distinguished Ministers and delegates of CDCC member countries,
Esteemed colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like, at the outset, to express my profound satisfaction at having the privilege of meeting once again with so many distinguished Caribbean leaders in this important intergovernmental forum, which serves to promote co-operation and understanding among the countries and territories of the Caribbean, and between them and Latin America.

I would also like to express my appreciation to you, Madame Prime Minister, for the outstanding support that we received from you and your colleagues in the preparation of this conference. I am sure that this magnificent new International Trade Center will serve to enhance the prospects of a fruitful twelfth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. My appreciation, too, not only for your unflagging support for our CDCC activities, but also for your very active participation in ECLAC since the admission of the Netherlands Antilles in 1981. Finally, I would like to thank the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, which has held the Chair of CDCC since November 1988, for the leadership it provided in promoting our activities. Dr. Carlyle Corbin deserves special mention for the dedication and enthusiasm with which he has served.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished delegates:

Over the years, the Caribbean has become increasingly active in the United Nations and its different fora. Simultaneously, the United Nations has striven to diversify its activities in the Caribbean. As an example, a small slice of the Organization --the CDCC-- is present today in this region. The Committee, as part of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, has the opportunity to extend its influence all the way to the Economic and Social Council, and, indeed, to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Thus, this forum allows the countries and territories of this region to transmit their concerns to the rest of the United Nations system.

The United Nations is today experiencing a period of exciting revitalization. Recently, important political changes in international relations, promoted by the thaw between the two superpowers and leading to a renewed emphasis on multilateral diplomacy, are entrusting the Organization and its Secretary-General with important new responsibilities. Many examples can be cited: the successful organization of the recent electoral process in Namibia (I am pleased to report that 26 members of the ECLAC secretariat, including 4 from the Port of Spain Office, participated in this important

endeavor as volunteers); the activities in Central America, both to observe the electoral process in Nicaragua and to verify the peace accords reached between the Central American Presidents; and the peace efforts stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Western Sahara, and from Afghanistan to Cyprus.

While progress has been particularly noteworthy in the peacekeeping field, there has been a growing realization that other problems, such as the threat to the environment, the fight against AIDS, the Law of the Sea and the curbing of traffic in illicit drugs are so serious that they require co-ordinated international action within the framework of the United Nations.

In the same vein, I believe that the new atmosphere of responsible co-operation will spill over into the economic and social arena. We are encouraged by the potential of several up-coming events which will allow a new effort at dealing with international economic issues and development: a new International Development Strategy for the Fourth Development Decade, and the 1990 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly dedicated to international economic co-operation and particularly to the reactivation of growth and economic development. Important topics, including external debt, poverty, and international trade issues, all of which are also of great relevance to the Caribbean, will be dealt with in this exercise. Another international conference which has particular significance for the Caribbean is the meeting on island developing countries to be held in 1990. I believe that our discussions in the next two days can make a significant contribution to the preparatory work for these global events, as seen through the Caribbean perspective.

Our Economic Commission is participating very actively in these global activities, and will continue to do so. We will also contribute to formulating proposals aimed at helping policy-makers to think through some of the main development issues of the nineties: how to foster renewed growth, how to enhance human development and how to manoeuvre in an increasingly complex international economic environment. In this context, in recent months we have held several seminars for public officials, including a brainstorming session with officials of New York-based delegations of member countries, held in Washington, D.C., last September. As for the future: ECLAC will hold two meetings in early 1990. The first of these, the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN), which groups together the developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, will be held in La Paz, Bolivia from 5 to 8 March, in part as a preparatory activity for the second event: the Commission's biennial session, to be held in Caracas in early May. As an integral part of the Regional Commission, the CDCC again offers the opportunity of bringing the Caribbean concerns to the broader regional forum. I therefore hope that its member countries will participate actively in both of these meetings.

Just as the CDCC offers the possibility of linking into global issues, it also offers the opportunity to do the same with regional and subregional issues. This is consistent with one of its main objectives: to promote closer relations between Latin America and the Caribbean. The importance of this objective was recently reiterated by the CARICOM Heads of Government at their Conference held in July 1989. The potential for increasing reciprocal trade is of particular interest and I was pleased to read the statements made

recently by Ambassador Charles Flemming of St. Lucia, who said that the Caribbean can greatly benefit from closer relations with Latin America. It would be most encouraging if this theme could be given careful consideration at the present meeting, with a view to identifying concrete proposals for action, both by the member governments and by the secretariat of ECLAC.

This is also a period of exciting change in the Caribbean. Naturally, not all of the movement is of a positive nature, but the region is anything but dormant. As is true for Latin America, the past year has brought mixed results, coupled with some promise of better times ahead. We were distressed at the news of the heavy damage caused by Hurricane Hugo, especially in Antigua and Barbuda, the United States and British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis. However, the affected countries demonstrated remarkable resiliency in the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort; an effort in which, I might add, the United Nations hopefully can make a contribution. ECLAC, too, would like to put at your disposal its expertise in assessing the economic consequences of natural disasters of this type, should this be required in the future.

In the political arena, and perhaps because of the recent "changing of the guard" in five of the countries, one senses an air of renewal and hope, as well as a consolidation of long-standing democratic principles. In the economic field, and notwithstanding the difficulties many countries face --to which I will address myself presently-- , some progress can also be noted, especially among the smaller island states. A more vibrant Caribbean economic integration situation adds to the sense of moderate optimism with which we season our natural apprehensions about the future.

In this context, the CDCC, as a subregional intergovernmental forum, was also created to contribute to intra-Caribbean co-operation. Consequently, it must complement other Caribbean organizations of a more specialized nature, such as the CARICOM and OECS secretariats and the Caribbean Development Bank, in their activities. We salute these organizations, and reiterate our desire to work closely with them.

Turning now to the overall economic situation of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is undoubtedly a great disparity in the economic performance of the countries of the region. At the end of 1989, most of the Latin American economies continue to be beset by the twin problems of stagnation and high inflation, compounded by external debt servicing problems and limited access to new external financing. Thus, the region as a whole continues to display the same complex syndrome of structural imbalances accompanied by fiscal deficits, low levels of investment, stagnation and inflation. One of the aggregate measurements of how poorly the region has performed from the economic and social viewpoint can be found in the fact that, at the end of 1989, the average Latin American real per capita GDP will be fully 10% lower than it was in 1980.

As regards the Caribbean countries, the diversity of experiences is even greater than in Latin America. The OECS States on the whole continued to experience relatively high growth rates, while the larger economies revealed characteristics not unlike those I have just described for many Latin American economies. Unfortunately, the available data for 1989 lead us to

believe that the situation has not improved, and while some of the blame for this situation may be placed on the ravages of nature --the two severe hurricanes which struck the Caribbean in 1988 and 1989 have certainly had a negative impact on economic growth-- external constraints such as the debt problem and domestic structural factors remain serious and sometimes intractable obstacles to economic development.

Against this background, in response to requests made at the eleventh session of CDCC, the ECLAC secretariat in the Port of Spain Office prepared two basic documents on subjects directly related to the economic performance of countries of the region. First, a survey of the economic performance of the Caribbean countries for 1988 (LC/CAR/G.279) analyses the situation in the Caribbean in the context of the world economic situation. Second, a document entitled "Impact of external sector developments on Caribbean economic performance 1983-1988" (LC/CAR/278), reviews the external trade situation of the region and makes certain suggestions regarding how to expand it. We feel that this meeting offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned in the 1980s, and how those lessons might help us to move forward in the 1990s.

As noted in the study, a serious effort needs to be made to be more competitive, especially since the preferential arrangements which have protected the traditional sectors and allowed them to survive cannot be expected to last forever. In the longer term, emphasis needs to be placed on increasing the productivity of the economy as a whole, since this is the only viable way to increase the standard of living of the Latin American and Caribbean people. In the latter context, it will be necessary to identify and promote non-traditional industries or activities which are sufficiently specialized to be remunerative in relatively small-scale operations, appropriate to the region's conditions. To be competitive, Caribbean exports will require the application of greater knowledge, skills and technologies in their production, all of which underscores the importance of the development of human resources. Finally, the very special circumstances of the small island developing countries will have to be fully taken into account. The ECLAC secretariat stands ready to assist the governments of the region in advancing towards meeting these requisites for sustained growth in the future.

Madame Prime Minister, distinguished delegates:

I want to end my remarks by making reference to a topic which concerns all of us: how to accomplish the tasks expected by our member governments within the financial constraints which continue to afflict the United Nations. You are well aware of the reduction in staff and resources imposed by the General Assembly. Fortunately, the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean has had to endure fewer cuts than the rest of the United Nations Secretariat. Certain suggestions were made by member States at CDCC XI regarding the proper functioning of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and I can assure you that these were given very careful consideration during the past months. I have been in contact with the Chairman of the CDCC on certain specific aspects of ECLAC staffing and, within a situation of serious limitations, I believe progress is being made. In this connection, for example, efforts have been undertaken to fulfill

priority programmes and to seek additional resources from extrabudgetary sources to supplement reduced allocations from the regular budget.

Let me conclude by expressing the sincere commitment of the ECLAC secretariat to the success of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee. Both through the efforts of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, dedicated exclusively to the Caribbean area, and through the support provided by our staff at headquarters, we are striving to make contributions to the economic and social development of the Caribbean. We look forward to receiving, from the Ministers gathered here, your ideas and guidance on how to make our contribution more effective and useful to the member countries.

Thank you.

Annex IV

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARIA LIBERIA-PETERS, HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

It is an honour and a great pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome you today on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and the peoples of Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius as I address you at this, the twelfth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

I take special pride in being able to address you today because our country is servicing as host to this important conference and we can share with you and familiarize you with the facilities here at the International Trade Center (ITC) of Curaçao.

The ITC, as you can see, offers excellent meeting and conference facilities for international activities. Another feature the ITC provides is support for international trade and commerce.

It creates new trade opportunities for business connections between the Caribbean, the rest of Latin America, the United States and European markets. So we can consider it very appropriate that this conference of the CDCC is being hosted here with these facilities and ambience.

For centuries Curaçao, through its human resources with considerable market skills, has enjoyed a reputation as an island of business in the Caribbean. The Netherlands Antilles and especially the island of Curaçao has long held a position of importance as a transit port and as international center for trade and distribution of goods and merchandise.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When we observe the world scene, we notice that in several parts of our planet new economic blocs are being formed. It is well known that the Caribbean countries are monitoring and preparing for these developments carefully.

To focus on Europe: the European Common Market is getting more and more integrated, culminating in one single market in 1992. It is imperative for the Caribbean region to join forces and to develop a common strategy based on our needs as a region and not on conflicting individual needs of countries.

The European countries, in spite of all their social and cultural differences, discovered the great value of regional economic integration and subsequently set up the necessary mechanisms to accelerate progress in this direction. The Caribbean countries have the obligation to follow this illuminating European example.

I would be doing justice, however, when I state that the Caribbean countries are also increasingly aware that we belong together and have

started to co-operate through regional organizations to solve our developmental problems.

Why are we doing this? It is because we are committed to our cause. Our cause is the development of our region by means of close co-operation. We are experiencing dramatic changes in the structure of the world economy. The bottom line is that all nations can guarantee their people a better economic order where we can live and develop in peace and harmony.

We have stopped believing that manna will fall from heaven and solve our problems. No, it is we who have to take action now in order to achieve that brighter future. That is why this forum of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee is extremely important.

Therefore, I can understand that member countries are very critical about its functioning. Criticism can be very important, because it forces us to constantly evaluate our actions so as to make the necessary adjustments.

But when again and again there seems to be some concern among member countries on the functioning of the CDCC, it is of paramount importance that this be addressed in a mature way, because this is the forum that has to be very much a vehicle to lead to co-operation and development --and hence progress-- of our respective countries and of the region as a whole.

I would like on this occasion to stress the importance of the CDCC as a significant part of the policy to establish and strengthen our links with the rest of the Caribbean.

Everything I have heard about the discussions at the technical meeting and during exchanges with other leaders of Caribbean countries leaves no doubt in my mind that most governments of the member countries of the CDCC have a genuine desire to see this organization continue in existence. Moreover, there is a desire to improve the quality of the CDCC's contribution to the development processes in the region.

However, some of the difficulties in the organization have raised questions in the minds of the leaders of some member countries as to whether the continued existence of the CDCC is in accordance with their interests. My own conviction is that the answer is clearly not to give up.

There is a growing interaction amongst our peoples at various levels. Together with the very fact that we share the same geographical space and the same fragile ecological resources, this challenges us to constantly mold the CDCC into a body which fully understands our problems. We have to make it responsive to our needs and aspirations. We must let it serve as a mechanism for the sharing of our ideas and resources to our common advantage.

Precisely because of these considerations, the item "role and functioning of the CDCC" is one of the most important items on our agenda. Yes, it is important, but there is no reason why it should be perennial. We all appear to accept the continued validity and relevance of the founding objectives. We therefore need to advance in the immediate future from a

debate on the role of what the organization should be doing, to the taking of concrete action.

I therefore make a solemn undertaking to work closely with the representatives of the CDCC member countries, with the CDCC secretariat, with the ECLAC secretariat in Santiago, and with other relevant agencies, to seek to ensure that during the coming year we will be able to record considerable progress in addressing a number of specific issues related to the role and function of the CDCC.

These issues include the following:

1. The relationship between the CDCC and ECLAC;

2. The relationship between the CDCC and its member governments, including the need for the CDCC secretariat to be responsive and accountable to these governments;

3. The need for the CDCC to concentrate a significant amount of its energy and resources on improving the links among the CDCC family, thus removing the remaining historical barriers;

4. The need for this organization to play much more effectively its role as a bridge between us, the CDCC member countries, and the rest of the Latin American and Caribbean region;

5. The role of the CDCC in winning for our countries and peoples access to a fair and reasonable share of the resources available within the United Nations system, and more especially, within ECLAC.

There is no doubt that we do have a common destiny and it is also beyond doubt that in view of 1992 and the approaching unity of Europe our small communities must reach consensus with regard to concrete agreements extending our regional co-operation.

International conferences are too often occasions for grand speeches in which the willingness for co-operation is expressed and in which the identity of our cultures is emphasized, but where however it seems difficult to reach concrete and binding proposals.

But we all agree upon the fact that the reason for gathering here is not for expressing pious wishes or the making of prophecies of which we ourselves doubt the outcome.

Most recently, we have been confronted with the possibility of an even more widening European community now that the walls separating Eastern Europe from the countries of the EEC are falling; we have thus, more than ever before, the obligation to reflect on the possibility of closer co-operation as an important aspect in the development process in the Caribbean area.

During the recently held so-called Miami conference, I expressed again the view that as the United States and Canada have also agreed upon

eliminating trade barriers, so as to open up each other's markets, this should be extended also to the countries of the Caribbean Basin.

But as different heads of government attending the conference did mention, we have to get our act together. As the United States of America and Canada are two huge entities, not totally unbiased by partisan interest, it seems easier to reach agreements, because it is one big United States and one big Canada, whereas in our case the United States and Canada would have to be dealing with most of the 38 different nations in the region.

It is imperative that in these kinds of political gatherings political consensus is reached on the concept of Caribbean unity, but it has to be emphasized that this consensus can only be reached if the idea of unity is backed up by strong economic data indicating that more can be realized in unity than in letting small island economies each strive on its own, often competing with each other to make a living.

There are ample reasons to start with a study on the position of our small island economies in the next decade. The advantage of a study on the position of our small island economies in the next decade is that it will contribute to stimulating challenging concepts which can be discussed in more detail and offer exciting scenarios for the carrying out of the development process in this area of the world.

It is remarkable that the Western world is not sufficiently convinced of the fact that this world cannot be perpetually classified into rich countries which moreover unite themselves in powerful blocs and poor countries which fail to find a way of uniting with the aim of increasing their strength. It is a fact, beyond any doubt, that development problems will lead to conflicts between the rich and the poor even at the international level.

We must be able to make it very, very clear to the Western world that development problems demand continuous economic and moral care. But this attention cannot be requested if we ourselves do not come up with initiatives which will attract international attention and which really can serve as a starting point for a global discussion.

In order to get a comprehensive historical view on Caribbean development, I plead for the creation of a Caribbean School or maybe Faculty of Historians and Economists who can help us to describe models for Caribbean co-operation where the need for unification will surpass the problems of the small island economies.

We must then be willing, however, to maybe take one step back in order to be able to make a big leap forward in the very near future. When we stick only to words we are engaging in a grotesque comedy; if we think that partial solutions and consensus on less important topics is the solution we are fooling ourselves.

In this respect I again emphasize the fact that European development has recently overtaken history and that the latest developments can lead to an even stronger Europe, the development of which can be to the disadvantage of our Third World nations. I assume that you are very well aware of the

discussions in which some nations have expressed their interest in extending their development efforts to the Eastern European countries as well. This has far-reaching implications for us and the rest of the Third World, since aid to the Third World will go down even further.

As members of the American hemisphere I want to stress our solidarity with the United States of America, but at the same time, as a friend of the United States, I want to emphasize the need for the United States to identify itself more with this region which belongs to the American continent.

The 0.3% of its GNP which, the United States provides as aid to the Third World nations compares poorly with the aid given by several European countries, notably the Netherlands, France, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

During the Miami conference, the Honourable Prime Ministers of Jamaica and Saint Lucia, the Honourable Michael Manley, the Honourable John Compton and also myself, brought forward in our speeches statistics showing how trade from the Caribbean to the United States has rapidly declined, but how on the other hand most of our material needs and necessities we have to import from the United States.

The answer is not to be found in just gathering together and criticizing that the United States and United States agencies should take more into consideration our needs for broader and more dynamic social and economic co-operation.

The answer is that we must get our act together by starting to remove social and economic barriers which hinder us from reaching out to each other. Our firm belief that the ECLAC/CDCC system has a role to play in the development process of our region has been translated into concrete action. I am referring here to two projects which I think are of particular importance: the removal of language barriers project and the study on women traders in the Caribbean.

The efforts of the Netherlands Antilles to be involved in the implementation of one of the priority projects of the CDCC started six years ago. In 1983, we hosted the regional conference on the removal of language barriers in the Caribbean and have been reporting on its progress each year at the annual CDCC sessions.

Putting our services at the disposition of other member countries of the CDCC has given us quite some insight into the physical, political and cultural situation in the rest of the Caribbean. It has opened us up to our Caribbean environment. It has also given us great satisfaction to see how much importance member countries attach to this project. The main problem most countries, including ourselves, seem to encounter in implementing this project is making our communities at large recognize its importance and priority.

We are accustomed to readily concede priority only to projects offering direct, short-term economic benefits. This project, however, is about positivism. It is making people of the different member countries realize how much we have in common. This project has also given us the conviction that

of the two trails that lead to the integration of peoples, the cultural one should not be put behind the economic one.

I believe that we should go on trying to learn to speak each other's language, in more senses than one. Because that is the way that will make us get to know each other better, and through that greater closeness and understanding we will become even more willing to embark on common enterprises, including economic ones.

It is with great satisfaction that we can see that one of the factors hampering development, namely the lack of entrepreneurs which is seen in many Third World countries, is less applicable to some Caribbean countries and notably my own country. We have recently experienced the rapid development of local entrepreneurs in this community.

I would also like to lay stress upon a recently innovative approach in this country by which the public and private sectors have worked together and so are jointly contributing to the economic growth of our country. I mention in this respect the founding of Curaçao Incorporated, in short Curaçao Inc., which represents a number of enterprises in the trade and transport sector which work jointly with the central and the island government to promote investment opportunities in Curaçao. We have bridged the gap between the public sector and private enterprise beautifully.

When talking about development and co-operation, we are also talking about our human resources. Our people, our strong and healthy people that will have to take over and carry on for a better future. That is why, ladies and gentlemen, should like to make use of this opportunity to also say a few words in general about the excellent work that non-governmental organizations are doing in our region. One project that is very close to my heart is the need for improved perinatal care in the region. To achieve this immense task, the Caribbean Institute for Perinatology was established. It is a truly Caribbean organization, incorporating all available regional expertise. The task of the Caribbean Institute of Perinatology is the upgrading of perinatal care within the financial constraints of the region. I believe its efforts should be supported. The future generation has to be strong and healthy so as to face the challenges that lie ahead of us.

In conclusion, I want to repeat and to emphasize the fact that it is imperative for the Caribbean region to join forces and to develop a common strategy based on our needs as a region and that it is the task of this conference to help in developing these strategies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to hereby formally declare open the ministerial meeting of the twelfth session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

Annex V

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Symbol	Document Title
LC/CAR/G.271	Report of the First Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee
	Informe de la Primera Reunión del Comité Examinador del Comité de Desarrollo y Cooperación del Caribe
	Rapport de la Première Réunion du Comité d'Examen du Comité de Développement et de Coopération des Caraïbes
LC/CAR/G.277	Report of the Second Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee
	Informe de la Segunda Reunión del Comité Examinador del Comité de Desarrollo y Cooperación del Caribe
	Rapport de la Deuxième Réunion du Comité d'Examen du Comité de Développement et de Coopération des Caraïbes
LC/CAR/G.278	The Impact of External Sector Developments on Caribbean Economic Performance, 1983-1988
LC/CAR/G.279	A Brief Overview of Economic Activities of Caribbean Countries - 1988
LC/CAR/G.280	Draft Provisional Agenda
	Proyecto de Temario Provisional
	Projet d'Ordre du Jour Provisoire
LC/CAR/G.280/Add.1	Annotated Provisional Agenda
	Temario Provisional Anotado
	Ordre du Jour Provisoire Annoté

LC/CAR/G.281, LC/CAR/G.281/Add.1 and LC/CAR/G.281/Add.2	Implementation of the Work Programme of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee 1988-1989 Ejecución del Programa de Trabajo del Comité de Desarrollo y Cooperación del Caribe 1988-1989 Mise en Oeuvre du Programme de Travail du Comite de Développement et de Coopération des Caraïbes 1988-1989
LC/CAR/G.282	Action taken on CDCC Resolutions and those of ECLAC and other United Nations Bodies
LC/CAR/G.283 and LC/CAR/G.283/Corr.1	Work Programme of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the First Period of the 1990 - 1991 Biennium Programa de Trabajo de la Subsede Regional para el Caribe de la CEPAL para el Primer Período del bienio 1990-1991 Programme de Travail du Siège Sous-Régional de la CEPALC pour les Caraïbes pour la Première Partie de l'Exercice Biennal 1990-1991
LC/CAR/G.284	Proposed Work Programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 1992 - 1993 Biennium. Programa de Trabajo Propuesto de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe Subsede Regional del Caribe para el Bienio 1992-1993 Projet de Programme de Travail du Siège Sous-Régional pour les Caraïbes de la Commission Economique pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes -Exercice Biennal 1992-1993
LC/CAR/G.285 and LC/CAR/G.285/Corr.1	Medium-Term Plan 1992-1997 El Plan de Mediano Plaza 1992-1997 Plan de Moyen-Terme 1992-1997

LC/CAR/G.286 and LC/CAR/G.286/Corr.1	Minutes of the Tenth Executive Committee Meeting of the CCST
LC/CAR/G.288 and LC/CAR/G.288/Add.1	Summary of extrabudgetary projects undertaken by the CDCC Secretariat for the Biennium 1988-1989

Annex VI

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARISPLAN	Caribbean Information System for Economic and Social Planning
CARNEID	Caribbean Network of Educational Innovation for Development
CARSTIN	Caribbean Science and Technology Information Network
CCCRIS	Caribbean Consultative Committee on Regional Information Systems
CCST	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDC	Caribbean Documentation Centre
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee
CDS/ISIS	Computerized Documentation Services/Integrated Set of Information Systems
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CELADE	Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (Latin American Demographic Centre)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEC	European Economic Community
ESTI	Empresa de Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (Translation and Interpretation Service Enterprise)
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GEPLACEA	Grupo de Paises Latinoamericanos y del Caribe Exportadores de Azúcar (Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries)

IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ILANUD	Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas para la Prevención del Delito y el Tratamiento del Delincuente (United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders)
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILPES	Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning)
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOLAC	Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean
INTAL	Instituto para la Integración de America Latina (Latin American Integration Institute)
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OLADE	Organización Latinoamericana de Energia (Latin American Energy Organization)
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PIDU	Patent Information and Documentation Unit
REDATAM	Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer
SDI	Selected Dissemination of Information
SELA	Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (Latin American Economic System)
TCDC	Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Organization
UN/DSPQRCDT	United Nations Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship
UN/DTCD	United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for the Development of Women
WID	Women in Development
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization